

- Q17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?
A17. **The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.**

Scripture References: Romans 3:16, 23; 5:12; Galatians 3:10

- DQ1: What resulted from the fall of Adam?
- DQ2: What always accompanies sin?
- DQ3: What is meant by “an estate of misery”? (Ref. Galatians 3:10)
- DQ4: Why does the fall bring man misery?

Notes:

The fall of Adam brought mankind nothing but (1) sin and (2) misery. Sin not only brought about misery but made it impossible for anyone to escape misery. Today, sin continues to bring misery to mankind. There is no exception since no one can escape from it. The harsh reality is that sin and misery are inseparable companions of each other. Sin and happiness do not mix. No one can be truly happy in sin. If it were possible, then the one who claims happiness in sin would indeed be the person most miserable for his complete lack of understanding.

One individual suffers from a disease but he does not know about his disease. After a while, he begins to suffer without knowing what is causing the pain. Later, he dies of the disease after significant suffering, the cause of which he never found out when in fact he could have been cured had he discovered his disease. Another individual suffers from the same disease but makes an early detection of the disease during a routine check up and becomes cured after receiving some period of treatment. Detection and discovery of the disease is the very first step in treatment and cure. So, it is with sin. The most miserable person is the person who does not know his own sinful condition and is there for unable to receive treatment.

All our pains and sufferings ultimately resulted from the original sin and the fall. And, we must have a very clear understanding of sin. Without appreciating the gravity of sin and its nature, sinner could not possibly appreciate the absolute need for a Savior. Romans 3:9-10 paints a pretty dim view of man’s ability or desire to seek or know God. While man is in sin, he is totally incapable of extricating himself from misery apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel enables sinner’s eyes and ears to open and man’s heart to yearn for a Savior.

An estate of misery is a state of happy-less-ness. True happiness of man is found in truly enjoying the communion with the living God. The fall made enjoying such a relationship with God impossible for man no matter how much he tried. Since the fall of man, hopelessness set in. And, indeed, there is no hope this earth to escape from such sin and misery. The gospel of Jesus Christ remains the only hope for those in such an estate.

No life is more difficult than the life without hope. As long as there is hope, strength can be had. “You were wearied by all your ways, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint.” (Isaiah 57:10)